

43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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For Immediate Release August 11, 2015

Jorgensen Urges State Transportation Officials to Move Forward on I-39/90 Project as Planned

MADISON – State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today delivered a letter to Governor Scott Walker and his Department of Transportation Secretary Mark Gottlieb, urging them to move forward with the I-39/90 expansion project as planned.

"The Republican budget made deep cuts to transportation and we know that will mean delays in planned road work, but Wisconsin cannot afford to stop or even slow down on the I-39/90 project," said Jorgensen. "Thousands of good-paying jobs and millions in economic development are riding on the Walker Administration's decision."

Jorgensen, together with Reps. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville), Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit), and Sen. Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville), noted that an increasing amount of freight and commuter traffic relies on the I-39/90 corridor. In fact, it's estimated that 70,000 vehicles travel the interstate daily. Approximately 35% of the volume consists of heavy trucks, carrying up to \$800 million in commerce.

"I-39/90 is a critical artery, and if Governor Walker and his administration block greater traffic flow, they'll be limiting Wisconsin's chance at a stronger economy," said Jorgensen. "My colleagues and I want to make it perfectly clear: our state – and our region - need this project now."

Rock County unemployment rate currently sits at 5.6%, above the statewide average. While early projects associated with the interstate expansion have already helped bring that rate down, delays jeopardize future job opportunities.

"Both for the sake of my friends and neighbors in Rock County and for the sake of Wisconsin's economic future, it's my hope that Governor Walker and his administrative officials will prioritize the I-39/90 expansion, and maintain the current schedule for the project," said Jorgensen.

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